



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL Agenda Highlights for September 29, 2008

For More Information:

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PARK & RIDE EXPANSION: With more Columbus residents using public transportation, the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) is planning to expand its Park & Ride lot in Clintonville. *Ordinance 1421-2008*, sponsored by Zoning Committee Chair [Kevin L. Boyce](#), will allow the rezoning of the property at the northwest corner of North High Street and Rathbone Road, from Apartment Residential (AR-1) to a Commercial Planned Development (CPD) District. COTA is hoping to add approximately 22 additional parking spaces to the 38 currently being offered. Parking for the COTA Park & Ride will be the only use permitted on this site, and the CPD text provides development standards for parking setbacks, site access, landscaping and fencing, and lighting and graphics controls. The requested CPD is consistent with the zoning and development patterns of the area.

GINTHER ADDRESSING PANHANDLING LEGISLATION: In an effort to continue to improve the safety and quality of life for Columbus residents, and to encourage economic activity, Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) is holding the second in a series of public meetings to discuss proposed changes to Columbus' aggressive panhandling laws. A public hearing will be held Tuesday, September 30 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. During the meeting Councilmember Ginther will discuss proposed revisions to draft legislation unveiled during the first public meeting in June. The proposed code changes reflect the recommendations of a diverse working group assembled to address the issue of panhandling in a comprehensive and holistic fashion. Interested citizens are welcome to attend the meeting.

HELP WITH WINTER HEATING BILLS: With winter approaching, home heating costs will begin to rise. The City of Columbus is prepared to help low income residents stay safe by expanding programs that offer assistance to pay heating bills. Health, Housing & Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) will hold a special committee meeting on Wednesday, October 1 at 5:30 p.m. that will focus, in part, on the City's effort to increase the available funds for low income families this winter. Utilities Committee Chair Ginther will also take part in the meeting, as well as Jack Partridge, President, Columbia Gas of Ohio and Jack Laverty, Manager of the Warm Choice Program. Local community action agencies will also be on hand to discuss how the Home Energy Assistance Program can be used by Columbus residents to lower their heating bills.

ENCOURAGING REINVESTMENT IN OUR CITY: The City of Columbus is committed to promoting neighborhood-based economic development with the establishment of Community Reinvestment Area (CRA), where property owners can receive tax incentives for investing in real property improvements. The City creates CRA districts to encourage revitalization of existing real property and the promotion of new development in an area where investment can prove challenging. *Resolution 0172X-2008*, sponsored by Development Committee Chair [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#), will extend the re-evaluation date for the Brewers District CRA until December 31, 2011. This extension will permit tax abatements for the renovation of the old Salvation Army building at 570 South Front Street. Renovation will consist of the conversion of a commercial building into approximately 60 condominium units. The total proposed investment in this renovation project has been estimated at approximately \$12.3 million.

MINORITY BUSINESS CONFERENCE IN COLUMBUS: Minority and Small Business Development Committee Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) will welcome small business owners from around the state to Columbus for the *2008 Minority Business International Trade Conference*. The theme for this first ever event, being held at the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation William Green Building Thursday, October 2 at 8:30 a.m., is "Global Readiness...Preparing Minority Owned Businesses for the Global Market". Councilmember Craig will present the Ohio Department of Development Minority Business Enterprise Division with a resolution from City Council acknowledging their efforts to expand business opportunities for minority and small business owners.

PROVIDING PROGRAMS FOR DISADVANTAGED KIDS: Every year the Recreation and Parks Department uses funds appropriated by City Council to provide opportunities for disadvantaged children to participate in certain fee-based programs. *Ordinance 1477-2008*, sponsored by Recreation and Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#), will authorize \$40,000 from the Private Leisure Assistance for Youth (PLAY) Fund for scholarships to pay the fees of these programs. In 2008, more than 5,100 children have benefited from PLAY fund.

PRESIDENT MENTEL'S MONTHLY AREA COMMISSION REPORT: City Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) is continuing to provide a forum for area commission reports with a briefing tonight from the Greater Hilltop Area Commission. The successor to former chair Gary L. Baker II, Chuck Patterson, is scheduled to update City Council on the programs and development opportunities taking place in this important west side district.